

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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CINCEUR
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UNCLAS ANKARA 9482

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: STUDENT VIOLENCE: DEMIREL - OPPOSITION EXCHANGE ON
FURTHER MEASURES

REF: (A) ANKARA 9288 (NOTAL), (B) ISTANBUL 4744, (C) ADANA 310

1. SUMMARY: PRIMIN DEMIREL, DISCUSSING THE CONTINUING
STUDENT-RELATED VIOLENCE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 10,
REPORTEDLY MENTIONED THAT UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS THE GOVERNMENT
COULD EITHER TAKE OVER THE UNIVERSITIES OR DECLARE MARTIAL LAW.
THIS STATEMENT DREW IMMEDIATE PROTESTS NOT ONLY FROM THE
OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), BUT FROM THE
GOVERNING COALITION MEMBER NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) AS
WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. ASKED BY A REPORTER IF THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO TAKE
STRONGER MEASURES, SUCH AS TAKING ONVER THE UNIVERSITIES, IN
ORDER TO COMBAT "ANARCHIC INCIDENTS," DEMIREL REPORTEDLY ANSWERED
THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE OVER THE UNIVERSITIES, THE
LAW LAID DOWN NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR SUCH AN ACTION. THEN,
AFTER NOTING THAT EVENTS HAVE PASSED THE BOUNDARY OF ANARCHIC
INCIDENTS AND ARE NOW "MURDERS", DEMIREL STATED THAT"WE HAVE
TAKEN ALL THE MEASURES THAT A GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE. WHATEVER
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OTHER MEASURES THERE MAY BE THAT CAN BE TAKEN, CERTAINLY THE

GOVERNMENT WILL PROCEED TO CONSIDER AND TAKE THEM." DEMIREL SAID THERE ARE TWO REMAINING MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN, MARTIAL LAW AND THE TAKE-OVER OF THE UNIVERSITIES. HOWEVER, HE CALLED BOTH OF THESE "EXTREME MEASURES" AND WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE IS PEACEFUL AND THAT THE UNREST IS MAINLY CONFINED TO THE UNIVERSITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF ANKARA AND ISTANBUL.

3. THE FOLLOWING DAY (DECEMBER 11), RPP LEADER ECEVIT ISSUED A RESPONSE TO THE PRESS, WHICH QUOTED HIM AS SAYING, "DEMIREL WANTS EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SITUATION WHICH HE HIMSELF HAS CREATED. IF HE CAN GET THOSE POWERS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE WILL USE THEM TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY, OBSTRUCT FREE ELECTIONS, AND DO AWAY WITH ONE OF HIS COALITION PARTNERS." (THE LAST REFERENCE WAS TAKEN BY MUCH OF THE PRESS TO APPLY TO THE NSP, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS MANY ENEMIES AMONG THE MILITARY.) ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ECEVIT WENT ON TO STATE THAT THERE ARE DISTURBANCES IN THE COUNTRY WHENEVER DEMIREL IS IN POWER. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE MURDERS WERE MAINLY COMMITTED BY THE "BANDS OF MURDERERS" WHICH DEMIREL AND SOME OF HIS COALITION PARTNERS OPENLY SUPPORTED. (THIS WAS PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO THE COMMANDOS, WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY INVOLVED IN VIOLENT INCIDENTS AND WHICH ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) OF DEP. PRIMIN TURKES.)

4. NSP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN CUMALIOGLU REPORTEDLY STATED TO THE PRESS DECEMBER 11 THAT THE NSP OPPOSES MARTIAL LAW AND BELIEVES THAT THE STATE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE DISTURBANCES VIA NORMAL POLICE FORCES. HE ADDED THAT THE UNIVERSITIES SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN POLICE FORCES.

5. RESPONDING TO THIS CRITICISM, DEMIREL REPEATED MOST OF HIS MAIN POINTS IN AN INTERVIEW PRINTED IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT TERCUMAN DECEMBER 13. IN ADDITION, HE STATED THAT THERE WERE DISTURBANCES IN THE UNIVERSITIES BECAUSE THE LEFT AND COMMUNISM HAD SINGLED THEM OUT AS TARGETS. THE MAIN PERPETRATORS OF THE VIOLENCE, HE SAID, ARE THE CRIMINALS RELEASED UNDER THE 1974 AMNESTY (UNDER THE RPP-NSP REGIME). DEMIREL, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, SAID THAT THE RPP'S OPPOSITION TO A TAKE-OVER OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND TO MARTIAL LAW MEANT THAT "THE RPP IS UNCLASSIFIED

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AGAINST PEACE IN TURKEY, FREEDOM OF LEARNING IN THE UNIVERSITIES."

6. THE TRIGGER FOR DEMIREL'S DECEMBER 10 STATEMENT WAS PROBABLY THE KILLING DECEMBER 7 IN ISTANBUL OF A POLICEMAN WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO STOP SOME MAOIST STUDENTS FROM PUTTING UP POSTERS. DECEMBER 10 ITSELF WAS A VERY BAD DAY FOR STUDENT INCIDENTS, HOWEVER. A 19-YEAR-OLD LEFTIST GIRL STUDENT WAS KILLED BY COMMANDOS WHO FIRED UPON THE MINIBUS FROM WHICH SHE WAS

ALIGHTING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA'S AGRICULTURE FACULTY, AND TWO OTHER PERSONS
WERE ALSO WOUNDED. (THE AMBUSH WAS REPORTEDLY IN RETALIATION FOR
AN ATTACK BY LEFTISTS UPON RIGHTISTS A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY). A
19-YEAR-OLD UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY STUDENT
WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED WITH A BULLET IN HIS HEART (A SUICIDE,
ACCORDING TO THE CORONER, BUT POLICE REPORTEDLY FOUND FOUR BULLET
HOLES AND ONLY ONE CARTRIDGE). IN DIYARBAKIR, A SCIENCE STUDENT
(OR A TEACHER, ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS), DIED OF INJURIES
SUFFERED WHEN HE WAS BEATEN BY OTHER STUDENTS THE DAY BEFORE IN
CONNECTION WITH THE FUNERAL OF ANOTHER DIYARBAKIR STUDENT WHO
HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN FATALLY INJURED BY POLICE AFTER A PREVIOUS
INCIDENT. (THESE DEATHS RAISE THE TOLL SINCE SEPTEMBER 1 TO TWENTY-
THREE.) IN ANKARA, A GROUP OF LEFTIST STUDENTS WHO WERE PUTTING
UP POSTERS FIRED AT POLICE WHO TRIED TO STOP THEM, ALTHOUGH,
UNLIKE THE ISTANBUL CASE, NO ONE WAS HURT. OTHER VIOLENT
INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED THAT DAY ELSEWHERE IN ANKARA AND IN
GAZIANTEP, ADANA, BURSA, AND MALATYA, AND A STUDENT BOYCOTT WAS
UNDERWAY AT ATATURK UNIVERSITY IN ERZURUM. AS A RESULT OF THE
DECEMBER 10 VIOLENCE, THE UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA WAS DECLARED
CLOSED INDEFINITELY AS OF DECEMBER 11 BY ITS ADMINISTRATION.
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